

# Community Reading Challenge held at KPS



L. Tucker-May/MNN  
Above- Mrs. Heitpas 2nd grade class listens to a story read by Vice-Chairman, Eugene Caldwell.

**Llona Tucker-May**  
*Menominee Nation News*

On Friday, March 15th the Keshena Primary School held a Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) event, where community members came in to read books to classrooms.

See KPS page 4

# Recent ice storm cause for emergency government action and response

**Roxie Bigfire**  
*Menominee Nation News*

At approximately 9:25 pm on Friday, March 8th, the lights went out in the Keshena area on the Menominee Indian County/Reservation. For some, this power outage lasted nearly 24 hours. The ice storm that hit Menominee and surrounding areas left the trees and branches covered in ice and sometimes leaning on the power lines accounting for the large area of power outage.

While many residents probably rushed to look for candles to light their homes, others sat wondered, “what am I going to do without heat?” Most of the elderly apartments are heated electrically so these individual residents were more than likely a little worried. Other residents with multi-ban scanners listened to officers of the Menominee Tribal and County Police Department on battery powered scanners.

The largest concern of both the Tribal and County Police Departments as well as other emergency services, were the local elders, citizens with medical needs which required electrical hook-ups, and the handicapped population. Warmth, water and food became a factor in dealing with all the inherent emergencies that may occur in the Keshena, Neopit, and Zoar communities. The South Branch Community is electrically powered through Oconto County, but the Local Emergency Committee were also concerned with their icy roads and surveyed Hwy 55 thoroughly where accidents may have occurred. Both departments quickly surveyed the major roads, while the dispatchers were kept busy. The officials worked quickly and efficiently clearing roads of debris--mostly trees, and helping people who slid in the ditches along the highways.

Menominee Housing Officer, Gerilynn Smith checked in on all



R. Bigfire/MNN  
Damage from the recent ice storm was visible throughout the reservation. Above-Fallen tree branches lay near the entrance to the Menominee Nation News and Loan Fund Offices.

the local elders, in the areas of Lyons Road and near Schoolview Addition. Praise should go to her and all other emergency staff that helped elders to the Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) to hook-up their medical equipment, and transported them quickly and efficiently.

## Local Emergency Committee meets for debriefing

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held a meeting due to the recent effects of the storm.


The committee members are: Doug Duquain, Fire Commissioner, Keith Tourtillott, Tribal Police Chief; Dave Corn, Utilities Director; Jim Corn, MTE Head Electrician; Ron Corn, LEPC Chairman; Doug Erdman, Media WTCH/WOWN, Ben Warrington, Jr., Highway Commissioner; Mike Schuessler, WDNR/Forester; Frank McLellan, Hazmat Coordinator-LEPC Vice-Chairman; Conrad Waninger, Menominee Tribal Enterprise Fire; Anthony Waupochick, Sr., Menominee

Nation Legislator/ Emergency Designate; Wayne Town, LLP&RD, Bryan Lepscier, County Sheriff; Barbara Nelson, Menominee County Health and Social Services Director; Jerry Olson, Menominee Tribal School designate; Gordon Waupoose, Menominee Indian School District (MISD); Chad Dickie, Menominee Nation Casino/Bingo Security Director; Randy Reiter, Menominee County Board Chairman; Gary Schuettpelez, Environmental Director, LEPC Chair; Pauline Pytak, Menominee County resident; Jerry Waukau, Clinic Administrator; Dawn Wilber, Emergency Communication; Jetta Coon, Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF), Director; and Mike Cook, Menominee County Board member. Without a written agenda Ron Corn and Hazmats, Frank McLellan chaired the debriefing of committee members. Roll call was taken. Ron Corn asked members for their input on the recent ice storm.

See Storm page 5

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Keshena, WI

Menominee Nation News  
P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135-0910



# Inside this issue

Legislative Corner	2	Vital Stats	11
Comments	3	Legislative members	
Education	4,13-15,17	Past & Present	9,12
Community	5,7,8,16	Legislative Minutes	18
Happy Ads	10	MISD Minutes	19